

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the application, as amended. Claim 1 has been amended to specifically point out that the housing is a stand alone housing and that the dart board is separate from the touch pad scoring device. Claim 15 has been amended to point out that the touch pad scoring apparatus is separate from the dart board and the touch pad segment is separate from the dart board. Support for these amendments can be found in the paragraphs numbered 3-6 and 16 of the specification and throughout the figures. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

CLAIMS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,824,121 (Beall). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Referring to Figs. 1-4, Beall discloses a dart game including a target head or dart board 11 integrally mounted in an upright cabinet 12. The cabinet 12 includes a control panel 16 mounted thereon with video display screens 19, 26 and input pushbuttons 17, 21. The dart board 11 is broken into a plurality of target sections 14 that are associated with a switch matrix 25 and at least one switch associated with each target section 14. The switch matrix 25 communicates with a microprocessor 22 when a dart hits one of the target sections 14. The microprocessor 22 is associated with a random access memory (RAM) 28 and a pair of memory devices 33, 37 that are able to keep score for various dart games and display the score on a remote video display 30. When a soft tipped dart hits the target section 14, the switch matrix 25 is actuated and relays a score to the microprocessor 22.

Referring to Figs 1-4, the present application is directed to a touch pad scoring apparatus 10 for a dart game that is utilized with a dart board that is separate from the touch pad scoring apparatus 10. The touch pad scoring apparatus 10 may include a dart board representation 38 on its face that visually represents a dart board. The touch pad scoring

apparatus 10 may be used with a soft tipped dart board or with a traditional steel tipped dart board. The touch pad scoring apparatus 10 includes a stand alone housing 20 and an electronic controller 102 within the housing 20. A touch pad 36 is supported by the housing 20 and includes a plurality of segments 32 and a plurality of sensors 34 adapted to detect the presence of pressure applied to any one of the plurality of segments 32. The pressure is applied to a specific sensor 34 by a user's finger, a stylist for other component that is able to apply pressure thereto. The pressure is applied to a specific sensor depending upon where the dart hits the separate dart board. The dart board is generally mounted to a wall and the separate touch pad scoring apparatus 10 may be transported about a room where the dart game is being played.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a touch pad scoring apparatus for a dart game including a dart board that is separate from the touch pad scoring apparatus and recites, *inter alia, a stand alone housing*; an electronic controller within the housing; a touch pad supported by the housing and having: a plurality of segments, and a plurality of sensors adapted to detect the presence of pressure applied to any one of the plurality of segments

Applicant respectfully submits that Beall does not teach, suggest or disclose a touch pad scoring apparatus including a stand alone housing that is separate from a dart board and includes a plurality of segments and a plurality of sensors thereon. In contrast, Beall discloses a housing that is integral with a dart board and the dart board includes an integral switch matrix for sensing dart strikes. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above-listed rejection of claim 1 based upon anticipation by Beall.

Applicant also respectfully submits that Beall does not teach, suggest or disclose that the touch pad of the stand alone housing includes a graphical representation of the dart board and each of the touch pad segments corresponds directly to a segment of the dart board as is claimed in claim 2. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Beall does not teach, suggest or disclose touch pad segments on the touch pad of the stand alone housing that are in the form of a plurality of input keys as is claimed in claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of claims 2 and 3 based upon anticipation by Beall.

Further, claims 2-14 are dependent upon claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-14 are not anticipated by Beall based upon their dependence upon claim 1.

Amended claim 15 is directed to a method of maintaining the score of a dart board game using an electronic touch pad scoring apparatus that is separate from a dart board and recites, *inter alia*, providing an electronic touch pad scoring apparatus comprising: a housing; an electronic controller within the housing; a touch pad supported by the housing and having: a plurality of segments, and a plurality of sensors adapted to detect the presence of pressure applied to any one of the plurality of segments . . . impacting a segment of the dart board with a dart; applying pressure to at least one touch pad segment corresponding to the dart board segment struck by the dart, the touch pad segment being separate from the dart board . . .

Applicant respectfully submits that Beall does not teach, suggest or disclose each and every element of amended claim 15. Specifically, Beall does not teach, suggest or disclose impacting a segment of a dart board with a dart and applying pressure to at least one touch pad segment that is separate from the dart board. Beall discloses a switch matrix that is integral with the dart board and senses the soft tips of darts when they impact the dart board and the integral switch matrix. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of amended claim 15 based upon anticipation by Beall.

Claim 16 is dependent upon amended claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of claim 16 based upon its dependence on claim 15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1-16, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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